

By the Queene.

* A proclamation for the execution of the lawes made agaynst vnlawful reteinors, &c.



The Queenes Maiestie vnderstandyng aswel by her owne careful obseruation of her policie, as by report of suche as haue thadministration of Justice in her Realme, howe vniuersally the vnlefull reteynnyng of multitude of vnozdinary seruauntes by liueries, badges, and other signes and tokens, contrary to the good and auncient statutes and lawes of this Realme, doth manifestly withdraue from her Maiesties crowne, the due seruices of her officers, tenauntes, and subiectes, and doth also playnely hynder iustice, and disorder the good policie of the Realme, by mayntenaunce of vnleful suites and titles, and by stirring vp a nourishing of factions, riots, and vnleful assemblies, the mothers of rebellion, besydes suche other great inconueniences that already are scene, and moe lykely dayly to folowe, yf speedie remedie be not prouided, for this purpose is moued with a most earnest intention, to procure a speedie reformation thereof. And because her Maiesties intent is, rather to haue generally her lawes duely obserued, and the defaultes quietly reformed, then the great forfeitures to be leuied, whiche are due to her Maiestie, and myght greatly by iustice enriche her treasure, specially in the streight execution of the sayde lawes, aswel by the persons that haue and do vnlefully reteyne others, as also by them that are so vnlefully reteyned agaynst the lawes: Therefore her Maiestie of her special grace, doth by this her proclamation notifie to al persons, of what estate or degree soeuer the same be, who shal after the. xx. day of februarye next folowyng, vnlefully reteyne, or be reteyned, in any seruice by liuerie, badges, or other token, contrary to the statutes and lawes of this Realme therefore prouided, the same shal not haue any manner of fauour or grace of her Maiestie, for any suche offence committed agaynst the sayde lawes, before nor after the same. xx. day. And contrary wyse, whosoever shal vpon this admonition forbear to offende herein, from and after the sayde. xx. day of februarye next, shal not be in any wyse impeached at her Maiesties suite, nor shal forfeite any thing to her Maiestie for the same: And so her Maiesties pleasure is, that al her iustices and officers, before whom any suite is, or shalbe commenced for any offence committed, or to be committed, before the sayde. xx. of februarye, to haue regarde to this her Maiesties gracious dispensation. And for the better execution of the lawes and statutes remaynyng in force agaynst any suche vnleful reteinors, her Maiestie chargeth al manner her iustices and officers, to whom the execution of the same is prescribed, to cause inquisition or examination, accordyng to the sayde lawes, to be made in al places of the Realme, immediatly, or as soone as conueniently they may, after the sayde. xx. day of februarye: And that al iustices of assise, and gaole deliueries, aswel in towne corporate, and franchises, as in any Counties, shal at theyr next sessions haue due regarde by good examination and trial, that no person be impanelled in any iurie before them, that is vnlefully reteyned, without due reformation and punishing of the same, for the better example thereof, in theyr open sessions. And further they shal cause a sufficient newe iurie to be charged aparte at the same sessions, diligently for that only purpose, to enquire of the poyntes and articles of al the statutes beyng in force, and specially of the statute made the thirde yere of her Maiesties noble graundefather Kyng Henry the seuenth, agaynst vnleful reteinors, and geue also some order, that (as the tructh may be therein vnderstande) some good euidence may be geuen to the sayde iurie in that behalfe. And that al other thynges, by the care of the sayde iustices, may be done both at theyr next sessions, and at al other theyr sessions folowyng: Whereby the inconueniences aboue mentioned, may be the moze speedily resourmed, and the lawes hereafter in this behalfe better kept. And to the intent her Maiestie may be the better satisfied in her earnest desyre, to see the effect of her desyre in this behalfe, her Maiestie willeth, that her sayde iustices of assise, shal after theyr next sessions, at some conuenient tyme, make report to her Maiestie, of theyr doynges, and of theyr opinions, for the better execution hereof, as cause shal require. And further, her Maiestie chargeth all manner of persons, that haue any seruauntes vnlefully reteyned, by liueries, badges, or by any other compact, who shal require to be discharged, for any offence punishable, before the sayde. xx. day of februarye: that they shal before the sayde. xx. day discharge theyr sayde seruauntes so vnlefully reteined, of theyr seruices, in respect of the daunger of the lawes: And therupon the sayd seruauntes shal accept the said discharge, and shal cease to weare the badges, or other tokens whereby they were accustomed to be reteyned, vpon payne that yf the sayde seruauntes shal continue to be reteyned vnlefully, in the sayde seruice, or in wearyng of the same badges, or tokens, after the sayde. xx. of februarye, they shal not be any wyse forborne from punishment for theyr defaultes

committed agaynst the lawes before the sayde .xx. of februarie. And forasmuche as by the sayde statute made in the thirde yere of her Maiesties noble graundefather kyng Henry the seuenth, prouision is specially made vpon weyghtie considerations, by great penalties of forseyntures agaynst sundrie officers, as Stewardes, Auditors, Receauers, and Bayliffes of the Queenes Maiesties Honours, Manours, and landes, and agaynst Constables or keepers of her Maiesties Castles, Wardens, maisters of games, Parkers, Keepers or any ether officer of her Maiesties forrestes, Chases, Parkes, or Warrennes, for beyng them selues vnlawfully retayned, or for theyr vnlawfull retaynyng, or for sufferynge to be retayned any manner of person, dwellyng within theyr sayde offices or rules, without enfourmyng her Maiestie therof within fourtie dayes, and also agaynst al her Maiesties farmours, or tenauntes of any of her landes, that are or shalbe vnlawfully retayned by any others, vpon payne of forseynture of theyr farmes: Her Maiestie hath thought good, specially and perticulerly, for better information, and to auerdye ignorance, to geue warnyng herof to al persons hauyng any suche offices, and to al other beyng her farmours or tenauntes, whom the sayde statute may touche, that they also do speedily resourme them selues in the offences therein perticulerly specified, before the sayd .xx. of februarie, vpon paine that yf they shall not so doo, her Maiestie assureth them, that she wyl not in any wyse remit the sayde penalties and forseyntures, which by execution of the sayde statutes, and other her lawes, may duely and iustly growe to her for the offences that are or shalbe committed before the sayde .xx. day of februarie, agaynst the sayde lawes and statutes.

Deuen at her highnesse pallace of Westminster, the thirde day of Januarie, 1571. in the fourteenth yere of her Maiesties raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regis Maiestatis.